

DOE Weekly Field Memo – April 14, 2010

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[Race to the Top \(RttT\) Support Survey](#)

Audience: Superintendents, School Board Chairs

The department is currently working on an application for Round 2 of the federal Race to the Top competitive grant. The state application includes a requirement for stakeholder support. The department is currently surveying superintendents and school board chairs to gauge their non-binding interest in supporting the application. The survey only asks three questions and simply provides a statewide snapshot of local support for this application. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to complete the survey that was sent to you earlier this week. If you are a school board chair or superintendent who did **not** receive the survey, please contact Jill Remick at jill.remick@state.vt.us. We ask that you participate **by close of business on April 19**. Thank you!

Contact: Jill Remick, Communications Director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

[Common Core Standards for Mathematics & English Language Arts FAQ](#)

Audience: All

The department has received many questions about the newly released drafts of the Common Core Standards. These questions have been compiled into a FAQ document with the information that is known at this point. This update provides the new release date of the Common Core Standards and information about assessment options. This update adds information about a new release date, updates assessment options and addresses the possibility of standards in other content areas. Visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum.html#cc_faq. Additions are highlighted in **purple**.

Contact: Marty Gephart, Assistant Division Director, at (802) 828-1462 or marty.gephart@state.vt.us

[Teachers Who Write Conference 2010](#)

Audience: Curriculum Coordinators, Classroom Teachers

The 23rd annual day-long Teachers Who Write conference will be held on May 21 at the Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier. Co-sponsored by The Vermont Council of Teachers of English Language Arts, the National Writing Project in Vermont, and the department, the conference features poet Geof Hewitt as keynote speaker addressing "Writing Surprises: Who Knows What I'll Say?" and a variety of workshop sessions, luncheon concert and book displays. **Registration deadline is May 1**. More information and registration is available at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#write>.

Contact: Rose Wheeler at (802) 828-3114 or rose.wheeler@state.vt.us

[VTAAP \(Vermont Alternate Assessment Portfolio\) Application for Summer Scorers](#)

Audience: Administrators, General Educators, Special Educators, Related Services Providers, Support Staff

More information about the institute, and an application link, are available online at

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#portfolio>. If you are not already a registered user on this site, sign on and follow the instructions for registering. After you log in you will find a link for the application on the Start page. The institute will be held from June 21-25 at the Hampton Inn in Colchester. Participants receive a stipend of \$100 per day; lunch and one break are included each day; mileage is reimbursed for commuters; double occupancy lodging is provided for non-commuters. See the application document for more information.

Contact: Cyndie Moran at (802) 828-0646 or cindy.moran@state.vt.us

2009-2010 NCLBA Instructional Paraprofessional Surveys (for Title I Schools Only)

Audience: Superintendents

The 2009-2010 NCLBA Instructional Paraprofessional Surveys are being mailed at the end of this week to supervisory unions with Title I schools. Instructions for completing the survey, which can also be found at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/licensing/hqt.html#paraprofessional>, are included in the mailing. The superintendent should return a completed survey for each Title I school to the Vermont Department of Education by May 25. If you have any questions, or if your supervisory union has Title I schools and you do not receive any surveys, please contact Lucinda Morabito.

Contact: Lucinda Morabito at (802) 828-1455 or lucinda.morabito@state.vt.us

FY11 Annual Spring Conference for Consolidated Federal Programs (CFP)

Audience: Team Leaders, Superintendents, Business Managers and Other School Personnel Who Will Be Working on the Upcoming Consolidated Federal Program Grant for FY11

This conference will be held May 18. Keynote Speaker is Jeff Renard, Program Coordinator of the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative. Go to: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#cfp>. **Registration deadline is May 10, 2010.**

Contact: Elizabeth Rand at (802) 828-3150 or liz.rand@state.vt.us

From the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative:

Needs Assessment Survey for Online Learning from VTVLC

Audience: Principals, Guidance Counselors

The Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative is conducting a needs assessment for online learning across the state and would like your input. Please click on the appropriate link below to go to a brief survey that will help inform the development of courses for the VTVLC. The survey should take between 5-7 minutes to complete. We value and appreciate your time and response. Principals, click here: [Principals Survey](#). Guidance Counselors, click here: [Guidance Survey](#). **Please respond by April 30.**

Peter Drescher, Education Technology Coordinator, at (802) 828-5149 or peter.drescher@state.vt.us

From the U.S. Department of Education:

Rural School Districts Eligible for Federal i3 Grant Application Assistance

Audience: All

Through a new \$1.4 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Rural School and Community Trust (Rural Trust) will provide customized technical assistance for rural school districts seeking i3 grants. On-site workshops and other outreach efforts will ensure that rural applicants are informed of the i3 requirements and application process. The Rural Trust will also assist rural school applicants in identifying promising innovations, completing applications, and building long-term capacity to complete competitive grant applications in the future.

For more information visit <http://www.ruraledu.org/articles.php?id=2455>.

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.